

Seeking Michigan Death Records? A New Digitization Project

Kris Rzepczynski
Library of Michigan

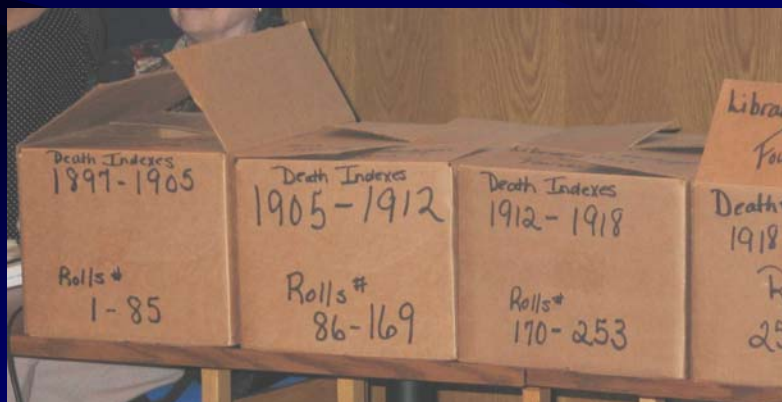
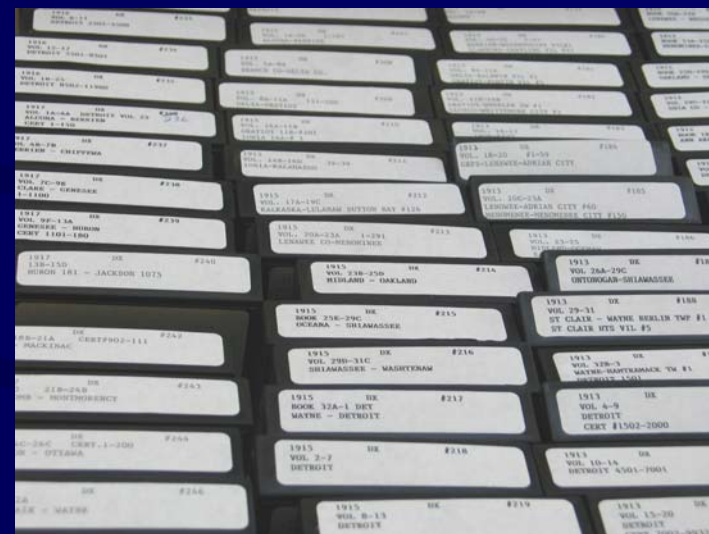
28 & 29 October 2008
Family History Month

What to Expect from Today

- Accessing the death records
 - Before & after
- Project overview
- Searching
- Demo
- Seeking Michigan web site

Michigan Deaths, 1897-1920

- 302 rolls of microfilm
- Nearly 1,000,000 records
- Indexes for 1897-1914
 - No index for 1915-1920



Michigan Deaths, 1897-1920

- Name
- Date of death
- Marital status
- Age
- Place of death
- Cause of death
- Occupation
- Father's name
- Mother's name
- Age at first marriage
- Parent of how many children
- How many still living
- Birthplace
- Place and date of burial
- Informant
- Undertaker



Michigan Vital Records Research

Public Act 104 of 1867 provided that Michigan cities and townships take an annual census.

Births

Index (mfm F 565 .I5 1960) 1867-1915

Marriages

Index (mfm. F 565 .I54 1960) 1867-1921

Index (mfm F 565 .I54 1950) 1950-1969

Returns (mfm F 565 .I54 1867a) 1867-1925

Divorces

Index (mfm F 565 .D58) 1897-1969

Summary (mfm F 565 .D57 1897) 1897-1922

Deaths

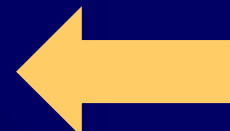
Index (mfm F 565 .I53 1960) 1867-1914

Index (available on *Ancestry Library Edition*) 1971-1996

Returns (mfm F 565 .I53 1868) 1867-1897

Certificates (mfm F 565 .I53 1960z) 1897-1920

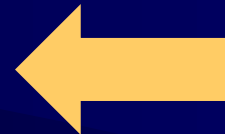
- *International Vital Records Handbook* by Thomas Jay Kemp (CS 42.7 .K46)
- *County Courthouse Book* by Elizabeth Petty Bentley (KF 8700 .A19 B46)



INDEX TO RETURNS OF DEATHS.

NAME	BOOK	PAGE	NAME	BOOK	PAGE	NAME	BOOK	PAGE
Chelst John D.	9	529	Hampson Richard	10	319	Smith Rubin D.	10	1261
Cullinan Jas.	9	535	Hecura John	10	322	Stoddard Joseph	10	1269
Clascha Joseph	9	572	Spurger Chas. R.	10	375	Thompson Paul H.	10	1275
Cummins Joseph	9	628	Stratton Horras.	10	379	Hay Wm. P.	10	1299
Connelley (no name)	9	634	Stoddard Herbert C.	10	382	Smith Olin	10	1305
Cross Dor.	9	640	Smith Fred.	10	417	Hampson Wm. W.	10	1317
Caring John S.	9	663	Storkia Lawrence	10	429	Whipman John	10	1324
Cullinan Jerry	9	667	Snyder Richard	10	511	Spencer Wm.	10	1349
Cowell Clarence	9	668	Stinson Harry J.	10	514	Stell Elmer	10	1394
Campson John D.	9	675	Stewart James O.	10	569	Simmons Lyman	10	1396
Calkins John	9	704	Smith (unnamed)	10	593	Sanborn L. L.	10	1404
Chilling Baby	9	707	Cullinan Chas. L.	10	606	Stell Louis Wm. J.	10	1410
Stearns Joseph	9							
Cault John L.	9							
Corn Oscar	9							
Coderwick Victor	9							
Chen James	9							
Cane John	9							
Cuino Louis J.	9							
Cummins Frances	9							
Cummins Leo	9							
Cheridan Owen	9							
Craig John	9							
Cummins Jas. W.	9							
Charrard Elmer J.	10							
Kingrock August	10							
Schuback Dietrich	10							
Concader Dr. Peter	10							
Cot John	10							
Stephen Charles	10	91	Stinch H. J. Wm.	10	948	Stechlin John	11	161
Schubel un-named	10	102	Stonicki Christobus	10	963	Steen Alfred	11	71
Stebel Charles	10	103	Stonicki Lawrence	10	975	Stead	11	172
Schad Jacob	10	129	Steville	10	987	Stetter Wm.	11	129
Stefan Chester Guy	10	147	Steborn Aug. P.	10	1024	Stonicki Thomas	11	210
Steborn John	10	157	Stonick Clifford L.	10	1025	Stonick William	11	51
Stachina (none)	10	109	Snyder (no name)	10	1053	Stonick Charles	11	227
Stonick John	10	113	Stonick Leo W.	10	1066	Stonick Elmer	11	272
Stonick Paul	10	183	Stonick Elmer E.	10	1067	Stonick Robert	11	279
Stonick August	10	188	Stonington Leo W.	10	1068	Stonick Fred	11	326
Snyder John H.	10	214	Stiles Bert L.	10	1097	Stonick James	11	334
Stonick Hugh	10	244	Stonick Mrs. H.	10	1124	Stonick William	11	325
Stonick Arthur	10	260	Stonick Elmer	10	1129	Snyder William	11	347
Stonick Elmer	10	270	Stonick Henry S.	10	1137	Stonick Wm. H.	11	348
Stonick	10	281	Stonick Christian	10	1150	Stonick Peter	11	354
Stonick	10	286	Stonick Wm.	10	1174	Stonick Robert L.	11	364
Stonick Daniel C.	10	296	Stonick	10	1194	Stonick Wm. H.	11	349
Stonick Samuel	10	298	Stonick	10	1198	Stonick	11	351

1900 Michigan Death Index



- Book and page number?

1907
e. 11 MONTH. 10 DAY. 1907 YEAR.

Hospital, institution or Transient Lodging house?	How long an Inmate or Resident?			
	Single, married?			
Part of	Decedent	YEAR	MONTHS	DAYS
		70	4	17

18 years of age Married
Name of Father Israel Smith Birthplace of Father (State or country) N.Y.

Date of burial or removal Dec. 18, 1907 Place of burial or removal North Plains Cemetery
Signature of undertaker Baker Address of undertaker Lansing

Any extraordinary causes or complications, if any No
Place where BURIAL CHAMBER DEATH was contracted, if other than place of death.
In case of a Violent Death, state (1) mode of injury and whether accidental, suicidal or homicidal; (2) what was the nature of the injury and the immediate cause of death; (3) contributory causes - conditions, e. g., septicemia. Also whether operation was performed, etc. In deaths from tuberculosis, cancer, etc., always specify what organ or part of the body was affected. In septicemia, so cause, especially if pyaemic.
Witness my hand this 17th day of December 1907.
Signature of physician, health officer or coroner J. S. North
(Address) Lansing, Mich.

Project Overview

- Abrams Foundation
- The Generations Network (Ancestry)
 - Scanning and indexing
 - Library retains publishing rights
- CONTENTdm
- Timeline
- FREE!

Searching

- County
- City / Village / Twp.
- Last Name
- First Name
- Age / Birth Year
- Death Year
- Death Month
- Death Day
- Father's Last Name
- Father's First Name
- Certificate Number

Our Sample Today

- 1,053 records
- Less than 0.1% of total collection
- Grand Traverse, Gratiot, and Hillsdale
- Records from 1899
- We're still learning!
- Demo



History, Arts and Libraries

Michigan.gov



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of Michigan Website

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Michigan Cemetery Sources
Michigan County Clerks
Directory
Michigan Genealogist
Newsletter
Michigan Naturalization
Record Indexes
Michigan Newspapers
Michigan SAR Indexes

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Genealogy Research

Genealogy Research at the Library of Michigan and the Archives of Michigan



The Michigan Library and Historical Center offers a wide range of family history research materials. Please note, the [Library](#) and the [Archives of Michigan](#) have different hours. The Library of Michigan is closed Sundays.

This Web page has information about conducting genealogy research and using the Library and Historical Center, as well as links to online research tools you may use from anywhere with an Internet connection. Please explore the links in the left rail or below, and be sure to [contact us](#) with any questions.

Library of Michigan: (517) 373-1300, librarian@michigan.gov

Departments/Agencies

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Surveys

RSS Feeds

HAL QUICK LINKS

- SITE INDEX
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- ANSWER Library Catalog
- Ask a Librarian
- E-mail HAL
- Forms
- HAL Contact Directory
- Jingle Ball
- Mailing Lists
- Press Releases
- Shortcuts to HAL Web pages

Genealogy Quick Links

- Seeking Michigan Digital Collections
- Michigan Genealogist
- Michigan Naturalization Records
- Michigan Cemetery Sources
- Michigan County Clerks Directory
- 1870 Michigan Census

HAL Initiatives

- Michigan Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Committee



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Learn more about the Archives of Michigan.

Michigan Lighthouse Collection



Michigan has 120 lighthouses, more than any other state. Since the late 1970's the U.S.

Search: **Across all fields** | [Selected fields](#) | [By proximity](#)

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None of the words

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Idlewild Photograph Collection

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Archives Architectural Records

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Regimental Service Records

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Archives of Michigan Oral Histories

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WPA Property Inventories

☐

Archives of Michigan Map Collection

☒

Death Records

☐

Michigan Polish Americans

select all

clear all

http://seekingmichigan.cdmhost.com - HAL Digital Collections : Advanced Search - Microsoft Internet Explorer

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The exact phrase in the City/village/township field show terms

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Death Day

Michigan
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Search results: 326 item(s) for: **Hillsdale**

search again

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<input type="checkbox"/> 1. 	Hillsdale	Wright	John
<input type="checkbox"/> 2. 	Hillsdale	Wright	Frankie
<input type="checkbox"/> 3. 	Hillsdale	Wright	Levey A
<input type="checkbox"/> 4. 	Hillsdale	Wright	

Hillsdale

County Hillsdale
 Township Wright
 Village Ballston
 City _____

MICHIGAN.
 DEPARTMENT OF STATE—DIVISION OF VITAL STATISTICS
 CERTIFICATE AND RECORD OF DEATH.

Full name John Osman Date of death Oct 21 1899

Place of death Wright Twp. Sex Male Color White
 Single, married, widowed or divorced Married
 If married, 41 years.
 Parent of 5 children, of whom 5 are living. Birthplace (State or country) American

Occupation Farmer

Name of father Daniel (Signature of father) 1899
 Name of mother Lysia Bender (Signature of mother) 1899

Date of burial Oct 26 1899
 Place of burial Ballston

Signature of undertaker J. J. Peter Address of undertaker Ballston

Certificate of Reporter.
 The personal and family particulars herein given relative to deceased are true to the best of my knowledge and belief. Witness my hand this Oct 21 day of Oct 1899
 (Signed) J. J. Peter
 (Address) Ballston

Medical Certificate of Cause of Death.
 I hereby certify that I attended deceased from Oct 16th to Oct 23rd
 that I last saw deceased alive on Oct 23rd 1899.



Click the mouse and drag the box diagonally to select part of the image. In the new window, right-click to perform other browser functions, such as save, print and e-mail.

Write Plainly with Unfading Ink - This is a Permanent Record.

County Hillsdale
 Township Wright
 Village Walkerton
 City _____

MICHIGAN.
 DEPARTMENT OF STATE—DIVISION OF VITAL STATISTICS.
 CERTIFICATE AND RECORD OF DEATH.

Full name John Osman Date of death

MONTH	DAY	YEAR
<u>Oct</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>1899</u>

Place of death if in city _____ Sex male Color White
 Single, married, widowed or divorced married
 (If married, ~~specify~~ marriage 41 years)
 (Parent of 10 children, of whom 5 are living. Birthplace (State or country) American

Occupation Farmer
 Name of father Daniel (Birthplace of father Mich. St.)
 Maiden name of mother Lysia Bender (Last place of residence of mother Mich. St.)

Date of burial Oct 26 1899
 Place of burial Walkerton

Signature of undertaker J. J. Peters Address of undertaker Walkerton
 Signature of reporter J. J. Peters Address of reporter Walkerton

Certificate of Reporter.
 The personal and family particulars herein given relative to deceased are true to the best of my knowledge and belief. Witness my hand this Oct 24 day of Oct 1899.

Medical Certificate of Cause of Death.
 I hereby certify that I attended deceased from Oct 16th 1899 to Oct 23rd 1899 that I last saw him alive on Oct 23rd 1899, that he died on Oct 24 1899, about 12-10 o'clock A. M. and that to the best of my knowledge and belief the CAUSE OF DEATH was as hereunder written:
 DISEASE CAUSING DEATH Apoplexy
 Immediate cause of death Paralysis
 Contributory cause or complication, if any Gunshot wound on spine
 Post-mortem performed during the war.

Witness my hand this 24th day of Oct 1899.

Write Plainly with Unfading Ink - This is a Permanent Record.

CERTIFICATE AND RECORD OF DEATH.

REGISTERED NO.

Full name Yon Osman Date of death Oct 24 1899

Place of death Earl, Ia. Wright - J. P. M. Sex male Color White

Single, married, widowed or divorced married

If married, first marriage 41 years

Parent of 10 children, of whom 5 are living Birthplace (State or country) American

Occupation Farmer

Name of father Daniel Birthplace of father Iowa

Name of mother Lysia Bidder Birthplace of mother Iowa

Date of burial Oct 26 1899

Place of burial Wright

Signature of undertaker J. J. Peter Address of undertaker Wright

Certificate of Reporter.

The personal and family particulars herein given relative to deceased are true to the best of my knowledge and belief. Witness my hand this Oct 24 day of Oct 1899.

(Signature) J. J. Peter

(Address) Wright

Medical Certificate of Cause of Death.

I hereby certify that I attended deceased from Oct 16 1899 to Oct 23 1899.

that I last saw him alive on Oct 23 1899, that he died on Oct 24 1899.

about 12-10 o'clock A. M. and that to the best of my knowledge and belief the CAUSE OF DEATH was as hereunder written:

DISEASE CAUSING DEATH Apoplexy

Immediate cause of death Paralysis

Contributory cause or complication, if any Gunshot wound in spine

Post-mortem examined during the war.

DURATION OF EACH CAUSE seven days

*In case of a Violent Death, state (1) mode of injury and whether accidental, suicidal or homicidal; (2) what was the nature of the injury and the immediate cause of death; (3) contributory causes or conditions, e. g., septicemia. Also whether operation was performed, etc.

Witness my hand this 24 day of Oct 1899.

Signature of physician J. M. Garner

Health officer or coroner Waldron

(Address)

Michigan Digital Collection

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All of the words		in the	Death Year	field	show terms

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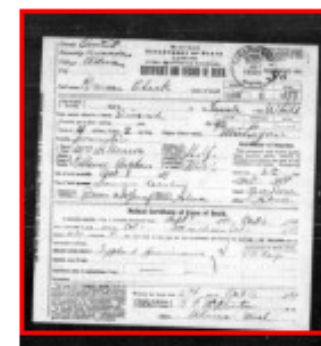
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Search results: 10 item(s) for: **clark**[search again](#)

Image:	▲ County:	City/village/township:	Given Name:
<input type="checkbox"/> 1. 	Grand Traverse	Paradise	Sylvester
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<input type="checkbox"/> 3. 	Gratiot	North Star	Rebecca
<input type="checkbox"/> 4. 	Gratiot	Emerson	Bessie



County Ingham
 Township Ardena
 Village Alma
 City _____

MICHIGAN
 DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 LANSING
 VITAL STATISTICS DIVISION.
 CERTIFICATE AND RECORD OF DEATH.

Full name Emma Clark Date of death Oct 6 1899

Place of death _____ Ward No. _____ Sex Female Color White

Single, married, widowed or divorced Divorced

If married, age at first marriage _____ years

Parent of 4 children, of whom 2 are living. Birthplace (State or country) Michigan

Occupation Domestic

Name of father Wm R Monroe Birthplace of father (State or country) N.Y.

Name of mother Ellenor Butcher Birthplace of mother (State or country) Mich

Date of burial Oct 8 1899

Place of burial Sumner Cemetery

Signature of undertaker Dean & DeYoung Address of undertaker Alma

Certificate of Reporter.
 The personal and family particulars herein given relative to deceased are true to the best of my knowledge and belief. Witness my hand this 6th day of Oct, 1899.
 (Signed) J W Dear
 (Address) Alma

Medical Certificate of Cause of Death.

I hereby certify that I attended deceased from Sept 7 1899 to Oct 6 1899
 that I last saw him alive on Oct 6 1899 that she died on Oct 6 1899
 about 4:30 o'clock P. M. and that to the best of my knowledge and belief the CAUSE OF DEATH was as
 hereunder written:
 DISEASE CAUSING DEATH Typhoid pneumonia
 Immediate cause of death _____
 Contributory causes or complications, if any _____

DURATION OF EACH CAUSE.
28 days



Write Plainly with Unfading Ink

Date of burial or exhumation Oct 8 1899 Name this 13th day
 Place of burial or exhumation Sumner Cemetery of Oct 1899
 Signature of undertaker Dean & DeYoung Address of undertaker Alma (Signed) J. W. Dean
 (Address) Alma

Medical Certificate of Cause of Death.

I hereby certify that I attended deceased from Sept 7 1899 to Oct 6 1899
 that I last saw him alive on Oct 6 1899, that he died on Oct 6 1899,
 about 4:30 o'clock, P. M., and that to the best of my knowledge and belief the CAUSE OF DEATH was as
 hereunder written:

DISEASE CAUSING DEATH: Dysphagia & pneumonia ✓ DURATION OF EACH CAUSE: 28 days
 Immediate cause of death: 1
 Contributory causes or complications, if any: _____
 Post-mortem: _____

*In case of a Violent Death, state (1) mode of injury and whether accidental, suicidal or homicidal; (2) what was the nature of the injury and the immediate cause of death; (3) contributory causes or conditions, e. g., septicemia. Also whether operation was performed, etc. In deaths from tuberculosis, cancer, etc., always specify what organ or part of the body was affected. In septicemia, give cause, especially if puerperal.

Witness my hand this 6th day of Oct 1899
 Signature of physician, health officer or coroner: W. F. McClinton M. D.
 (Address) Alma, Mich.

County	Gratiot
City/village/township	Arcada
Last Name	Clark
Given Name	Emma
Age	42
Death Day	6
Death Month	Oct
Death Year	1899
Father's Given Name	Wm R
Father's Last Name	Monroe
Certificate Number	58

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Seeking Michigan

- *www.seekingmichigan.org*
- Online community of historical collections
- Dramatic redesign of existing site
- Timeline

Final Thoughts

- “Michigan, My Michigan”
- FamilySearch Labs & Seeking Michigan
 - 1867-1920 all online
 - Free
- Looking ahead
 - Future collections
 - Going live
- Stay tuned!

Questions?



Library of Michigan

702 W. Kalamazoo

Lansing, MI 48909

(517) 373-1300

librarian@michigan.gov

<http://michigan.gov/familyhistory>